



LETTERS

A Holmberg Hall Connection

My name is Charles Kendall, a 1967 OU graduate. My wife, Jeanne Ann, is a '68 graduate in drama who performed on stage in Holmberg Hall.

While at my mother's home, a 1936 graduate who is 98 years old, I came upon your summer 2005 issue featuring the renovation of old Holmberg Hall. I had classes there as did my wife. My mother's family is an old Norman family. My grandfather had a general store on Main Street—the building is still there—in the early 1900s. One of my uncles, Carl Bashara, was a captain of the OU wrestling team while he was there, and my uncle Ellis Bashara was a wrestler and an All-American football player in the early 1930s at OU. Morris Tennenbaum, a well known campus figure for decades, was a close family friend who I actually lived with my last three years at OU.

Well, so what, you say. What does this all have to do with Holmberg Hall? Well, my grandfather was a stone mason before he immigrated to the United States, and during the original construction of Holmberg Hall, the workers did not know how to put in place some of the archway stones over the entrances. So my grandfather was called upon for his expertise, and he came and placed the stones.

While I was a student there, many of my family's old friends had prominent positions at OU, Port Robertson and Dewey "Snorter" Luster among them.

It's good to see restoration and a continuation of history rather than destruction and rebuilding. Good story! Keep up the good work. (I'm only three years late in letting you know, but thought someone might find the information of some little interest.)

*Charles Kendall, '67 ba
Lincoln, California*

Warm Memories of Gerry Cater

It was a shock to Sooners of our era to learn of the January 9, 2009, death in Arlington, Virginia, of Gregorio "Gerry"

Cater at the age of 43. It isn't easy to say goodbye to a friend of nearly 25 years. Gerry and I shared countless memories going back to the summer of 1985, when we first met as Cortez A.M. Ewing Scholars in Washington, D.C. The Ewing program had a profound effect on our early lives. We both ended up back on Capitol Hill after graduation, and our lives kept intersecting at different points, in different countries over the ensuing 20 years.

Gerry was one of the most intelligent, considerate and fun-loving people my husband, Gene, and I have ever known. His achievements were endless. Many of you probably remember he was OU's Outstanding Senior Man in 1987. One of my fondest memories was in 1986, when I served as his campaign manager for Student Body President. He lost by only a few votes, but never complained about the outcome. As with everything, he seemed to radiate happiness wherever he went and his infectious smile took him far through life.

We overlapped for four years in London with Gerry, his wife, Melinda, and their two kids, Evan and Geoffrey. Gerry ran the London office of WilmerHale, a Washington, D.C.-based firm where he worked tirelessly for 16 years. He was a corporate lawyer "doing deals," as he told his kids, and he absolutely loved his time in Europe. Gerry is an indelible part of London to us. It's hard to look around London without thinking about him, especially when we see the red buses and the city skyline. He was far too young to leave us, but he certainly made an impact in his short life and left many happy memories for those of us who knew and loved him. We shall all miss our friend.

*Lynn Grigsby Frieda, '86 journ
London, England*

Bad News, Good News

The "bad" first. In your "Postscript" on Professor [Vernon L.] Parrington in this [Winter 2009] issue, there were a couple of errors. You mentioned that the South Oval had been named the Parrington Oval. I believe that the North Oval is the Parrington Oval and the South Oval is

the Van Vleet Oval. This certainly did not detract from what you wanted to say, but I assumed that you would like to know about the error. The other error was under the picture of the building on the University of Washington campus. Professor Parrington's name was misspelled.

Now having said that, let me get to the good part. The *Sooner Magazine* is a wonderful magazine. It brightens my day when it arrives, and I usually read it from cover to cover. It is beautifully designed and very well written, and it makes me proud to be an OU alumnus.

This issue was particularly great. Well done! Sorry about the gripe, but the magazine is so good that I assumed that any criticism would be welcomed and received as it was intended.

Keep up the good work.

*Carl D. Oates, '61 bba
Mustang, Oklahoma*

A Little Bit of Class Never Hurts

I just finished reading "The Game of the Century" in the winter [2009] edition of *Sooner Magazine*. The article about the reunion of the 1971 Nebraska and OU football teams in Norman this past fall reminded me of the time I was the proudest to be a Sooner. That day was September 7, 2002.

My wife and I graduated from OU in 1964, and we never lived in Oklahoma after that. We managed to keep up with OU football when we lived in Texas and Arkansas, but when we moved to Alabama in 1999, it was all about Auburn and Alabama. We did come back to Oklahoma to visit family and attended a few OU football games over the years. Our ardor for OU football was tempered by our distance from Oklahoma and the overwhelming influence that Alabama and Auburn have in the state. I was surprised when my mother, who has had OU season tickets for many years, called early in 2002 and asked if we'd like to come to Oklahoma for the game against Alabama and use her two season tickets. I didn't even know OU had scheduled Alabama, but I did remember the 1963 Orange Bowl game when Bear Bryant's team beat OU. That's why I

declared as an Auburn fan when I moved to Alabama. (You have to declare your allegiance to either Auburn or Alabama if you live in the state!)

OU and Alabama had never played each other in a regular season game, so this one promised to be exciting. We knew OU was ranked #3, but Alabama coach Dennis Franchione was gunning for the Sooners. My wife and I got into our seats early and watched the teams practice. I don't remember exactly what happened next, but I do remember the feeling it gave me. The PA announcer said something about OU and Alabama having teams with great football tradition and that this was the first regular season game between the two teams. He went on and on about the tradition of Alabama football and asked OU fans to cheer for the Alabama team when they returned to the field to start the game. I'd never heard anything like that at any college game I'd ever attended. I got goose bumps and thought "OU is the classiest school anywhere." It takes a lot of "class" to ask your fans to cheer for the opposition and for them to do just that.

After the game, which OU hung on to win 37-27, I talked to many Alabama fans (who travel in their motor homes to all Alabama games), and they said they'd never been treated better at an away game than they had been by the folks in Oklahoma. They said that OU fans were the most hospitable and classiest fans they'd ever seen. That's the day that I was the most proud to be a Sooner!

I have thought about that day many times since that hot September afternoon, but was reminded of how much class OU really has when I read the "The Game of the Century." How many schools would invite a bitter rival to celebrate one of the most crushing defeats in school history—even if it was the Game of the Century? I can only think of one. The University of Oklahoma.

*C. Hoyt Andres, '64 ba
Highlands, North Carolina*

Perspective on Bob Stoops

Thank you for "The Other Bob

Stoops." Sooner losses are devastating for any real Sooner fan, but this article helps us to remember that football or basketball is a game. The losses and heartaches of the patients and parents that Bob Stoops visits are the real tragedies.

Years from now when Bob Stoops gets to heaven, he'll be remembered not for being a great coach but for being a caring individual who brought joy to many and who encouraged others to help those less fortunate.

Bob Stoops is just another reason we are proud to be Sooners!

*Tommy, '62 acct, and Sharon Jones
Texhoma, Oklahoma*



Bob Stoops visits with friend Abby Riggs.

Believe in Me

Editor's Note: The Summer 2007 issue of Sooner Magazine carried an article on the filming of "Believe in Me," a basketball story based on the late Harold Keith's book, Bright Garland. The real-life hero of the book, Coach Jim Keith, made quite an impression on two sisters in Ohio, who through the wonders of the Internet located Sooner Magazine and wrote for more information. The ever-accommodating Jim Keith, '51 bs ed, responded to each of the girls. Still coaching at 81, Keith reports that this is his last year helping with the Claremore High School

girls' team that made it to the state tournament at Lloyd Noble Center in March.

Dear Editor and Coach Keith,

My name is Callahan Lutz. I liked your movie. It was very good! My favorite part was when they became champions. I thought the coach was really good at coaching because he told them to slow down.

*Callahan Lutz
Westerville, Ohio
Kindergarten*

My name is Madison Lutz. I just watched your movie and I loved it! Whenever I was watching it I felt like saying Go, Go, Go! Since I play basketball, it's easier to understand. I really liked how you worked with your girls and weren't mean about it. My favorite part was when they made the big mob and the town went against the school board president, Ellis Brawley. I liked how much they worked together. Do you have any basketball advice for us?

*Madison Lutz
Westerville, Ohio
4th Grade*

The Name Is Not the Same

I recently read the "Casting His Own Shadow" article in the Spring 2008 issue of *Sooner Magazine*, which was included in the OU Update 2009 I received today. [A] paragraph from the article refers to a "Lenny Marie Townsend."

As a student at the University of Oklahoma during the late '60s and early '70s (Class of 1973), I recall a "Dr. Lennie-Marie P. Tolliver," who taught in the OU School of Social Work. . . .

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the article about Dr. Melvin Tolson, who I greatly respect and admire, but I thought you might be interested in what I believe to be a misstatement in the article regarding Dr. Lennie-Marie P. Tolliver, unless Dr. Tolliver changed her name later in life.

*Oscar B. Jackson Jr., '73 ed
State Secretary of Human Resources
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

Editor's Note: Tolliver is correct.